

## Preliminary Amendment

### Amendments to the Specification:

Please insert after paragraph [0023] the following new paragraph:

--[0023A] Fig. 1A shows an embodiment with an isolating sleeve between the sleeve of the support ring and the sleeve section of the spring collar.--

Please replace paragraph [0025] with the following amended paragraph:

--A support ring 5 is fastened on the outside surface of the cylinder, for which various types of fastening means could be used. In this case, a lock washer 7 is shown in the drawing, but a weld could also be used. The support ring 5 consists of a bottom part 9 and a sleeve 11, so that the support ring and the cylinder cooperate to form a ring-shaped chamber 13. The bottom end of a sleeve section 15 of the spring collar 3 fits into this chamber, in which it can slide in the axial direction. On the cylinder 1, an isolating sleeve 16 is provided, which has a guide surface 18 for the sleeve section. The isolating sleeve 16 is made of plastic, for example, and is provided with a soft surface, so that it will not leave any abrasion marks on the sleeve section 15 or on the cylinder. Alternatively or in combination, as shown in Fig. 1A, an isolating sleeve 26 can also be installed between the sleeve 11 of the support ring and the sleeve section 15 of the ~~support ring 5~~ spring collar 3. If an isolating sleeve is only present between the support ring 5 and the sleeve section 15, then it is advisable to increase the size of the gap between the sleeve section 15 of the spring collar 3 and the cylinder 1, so that there will not be any abrasive contact between the spring collar 3 and the cylinder 1 when the spring collar is installed. Through a connecting opening 17 in the support ring, the chamber 13 can be filled

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with a curable material at least up as far as the lower end surface 19 of the sleeve section 15. A liquid plastic can be used as the curable material, or possibly a hardenable metallic material could be used.--